

Today's Topics:

ARRL Letter 10-Oct-89

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Subject: ARRL Letter 10-Oct-89

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|           Relayed from packet radio via           |
| N8EMR's Ham BBS, 614-457-4227 (1200/2400/19.2 telebit,8N1) |
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ARRL LETTER - Volume 8 - Number 20 - October 10, 1989

HOUSE ADOPTS BUDGET RECONCILIATION BILL WITH AMATEUR LICENSE
FEES; OPPOSITION BUILDS IN SENATE

On October 5 the U.S. House of Representatives adopted H.R. 3299, the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1989. A Schedule of Charges for the FCC is contained in Section 4701 (a), "Update of Fee Schedule." The bill proposes to amend Section 8 of the Communications Act by adding a new subsection (g) which would include the following:

PRIVATE RADIO SERVICES

7. Amateur License

a. New License (per application)	\$30.00
b. Modification of License (per application)	30.00
c. Renewal of License (per application)	30.00
d. Reciprocal Permit for Alien Amateur License	30.00
e. Renewal or Modification of Amateur Club, Races, or Military Recreation Station License	30.00
f. Special Temporary Authority (Initial, Modifications, Extensions)	30.00
g. Requests for Waiver	
(i) Routine (per request)	105.00
(ii) Nonroutine (per rules section/ per station)	105.00

On the Senate side, at press time the Commerce Committee was preparing to introduce its version of the legislation for early floor action. The Senate version presently includes a \$35 fee for amateur license transactions. ARRL's focus is on seeking an amendment on the Senate floor (see next story), to eliminate or reduce the fee in line with the policy adopted by the Board. ARRL members wanting to express their opposition to the Amateur Radio license fee should urge their Senators to cosponsor such an

amendment, and if the amendment succeeds, should urge their Congressman to support the Senate version in the Conference Committee.

SENATOR LEVIN SPEAKS FOR AMATEURS, AGAINST LICENSE FEES;
SEEKS COSPONSORS FOR AMENDMENT

The October 3 Congressional Record carries a statement by Senator Carl Levin of Michigan, expressing his opposition to proposed fees for Amateur Radio operators in H.R. 3299. In opening Senator Levin said "Mr. President, I have recently learned that the Commerce Committee has chosen to meet its reconciliation responsibilities, in part, by imposing unprecedented fees on our Amateur Radio operators. It is ironic that this proposal comes at a time when we have been able to witness the achievements of the Amateur Radio operators so prominently in our daily headlines." Senator Levin continued, citing the "absolutely priceless" information provided to the world by the amateur community in the aftermath of Hurricane Hugo.

The Senator went on to say, "Amateur radio operators..are dedicated individuals who play a valuable role for our Nation in public safety, disaster relief, and emergency communications for national defense, among other services. ..in times of need Amateur Radio operators are transformed into a corps of highly trained public service communicators, who willingly work long hours as volunteers during disasters."

Senator Levin pointed out that the Senate Commerce Committee did not include other nonprofit organizations such as special emergency and public safety groups and public broadcasters in their fee schedule because of the public service they provide. He then came to the major thrust of his comments: "Mr. President, our Amateur Radio operators also provide an important public service, and we should not treat them any differently than we do other nonprofit service organizations."

Concluding his statement he said, "...I hope to be able to offer an amendment, when we take up the reconciliation bill that will address these unfair fees on our Amateur Radio operators. I invite any interested colleagues to join me in this effort."

Melinda Loftin is the member of Senator Levin's staff who is handling the matter, including lining up cosponsors.

IT'S OFFICIAL:

ARRL GOES TO COURT TO CHALLENGE FCC'S 220-MHZ REALLOCATION DECISION

On September 28, ARRL filed a "Petition to Review Agency Order" with the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. The petition requests the Court to set aside the FCC reallocation decision in Docket 87-14, and remand the matter to the FCC for redecision.

The petition contains only a brief overview of ARRL's argument that the Commission's action was arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, and not in accordance with the law; the substance will come later, in the League's statement of issues and pleading.

IARU REGION 2 MEETS IN ORLANDO

Ninety-seven delegates and observers representing 24 countries participated in the Triennial Conference of International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Region 2, held in Orlando, Florida, on September 4-8.

There was a full agenda with over 100 documents under discussion. These documents dealt with a wide range of topics 2 (including approval of a special budget for WARC-92) and band-planning and operational matters.

The new Region 2 Executive Committee elected to serve for the next three years include:

Alberto Shaio,	HK3DEU, President
Fabian Zarrabe,	YS1FI, Vice President
Tom Atkins,	VE3CDM, Secretary
Steve Dunkerley,	VP9IM, Treasurer
Frank Butler,	W4RH
Guillermo Nunez,	XE1NJ
Willy Gravenhorst,	PJ2WG
Alfonso Alvarez Calderon,	OA4PQ
Reinaldo Szama,	LU2AH

ARRL AWARDS NEWS

The Region 2 Conference meeting in Orlando has adopted a change in policy in regard to awards credits on 10 MHz. This will bring that policy into conformity with Regions 1 and 3 which already permit awards credits. Thus, effective immediately, ARRL now accepts 10 MHz contacts for the following awards: WAS (basic, CW, RTTY, Packet and QRP, but no single band or 5 Band WAS); DXCC (CW and digital QSOs for the mixed, CW and RTTY awards, but no 5 Band DXCC).

10 MHz users are reminded to avoid causing interference to stations operating in the Fixed Service. The Conference noted the special need to maintain the highest operating standards in the period prior to the 1992 World Administrative Radio Conference.

ZL OPERATING MADE EASY

The New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters Inc., announces the establishment of a liberal visitors' operating permit. Effective immediately, all amateurs regardless of class, may operate a handheld

transceiver on the VHF/UHF bands without prior licensing approval. There is no application to complete and no fee, however, certain conditions apply:

- Licensed visitors may use VHF/UHF handhelds on frequencies 144 MHz and above available to amateur stations in ITU Region 3. For example, operation on the 220 MHz band is not permitted in New Zealand. See section 97.301 of the FCC rules for a complete listing of frequencies authorized for amateur use in ITU Region 3.
- Operation is for a period of not more than 4 weeks.
- The visiting amateur must be the holder of a current license issued by their own administration.
- A copy of the current license must be carried while operating
- Use of the apparatus must conform with the requirements of the New Zealand Radio Regulations 1987 and the general terms and conditions shown on the license schedule.
- The visiting amateur must use the home callsign suffixed by ZL 1, 2, 3, 4 as appropriate.

Full license privileges continue to be available under normal reciprocal agreement where these apply.

MICROSATS PASS ENVIRONMENTAL TESTING; MUST WAIT FOR LAUNCH

All four of the AMSAT MICROSATs (PACSAT, LUSAT, DOVE, and WEBERSAT) completed the necessary environmental tests, that is, thermal vacuum and vibration tests with flying colors. This means the MICROSATs are now certified to fly aboard the Ariane IV launch vehicle.

Official word received on September 29 from Intelsat and Arianespace representatives indicates that launch may be delayed at least 4 weeks from the original date of November 10 to correct problems with the Ariane IV launch vehicle. The AMSAT launch team will use this time to perform additional system level and software testing on the satellites.

ARRL/VEC REACHES MILESTONE

Volunteer Examiner Department manager Bart Jahnke, KB9NM says that on September 27, the department processed examination session number 10,000. This session was conducted by the Grand Rapids Amateur Radio Association, of Grand Rapids, Michigan earlier that month. To mark the occasion, the VEC will send the Grand Rapids ARA a certificate and letter of recognition.

More than 121,000 candidates have been served by the ARRL/VEC during the 10,000 sessions. July 21, 1989 marked the 5th anniversary of the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator.

SOLAR CYCLE 22 READY TO PEAK

During September, the solar flux went on a "rollercoaster ride" peaking at 305 twice in three days then dipping to 155 - but even this was high enough for good propagation on most HF bands. Conditions should improve during October, with the best days of the fall season expected to arrive in November.

The latest solar and geomagnetic field data is transmitted at 18 minutes past the hour by WWV in Boulder, Colorado. The same information is transmitted by WWVH in Hawaii, at 45 minutes past the hour. The K index is revised every 3 hours. A K figure of 3 or more indicates poor propagation or even complete loss of communication on high latitude paths. Trans-Equatorial propagation is not usually affected and may even improve under high K conditions.

Even the lowest solar flux readings for the next year or so should be high enough for good work on most all HF bands. The next year or so should also provide ample opportunities for DX work on 50 MHz.

AMATEUR RADIO "NEWSLINE"

"Newsline" is a ten minute audio report covering a variety of amateur related subjects. Many HF, VHF, and UHF nets transmit these weekly reports. If you are unable to hear Newsline on the air, it is available by dialing 312-289-0423 (Illinois) or 213- 462-0008 (California). The report is usually updated on Fridays.

Additional information about "Newsline" may be obtained by writing to Norman Chalfin, K6PGX, PO Box 463, Pasadena, CA 91102

W1AW TO EXPLORE OPERATION ON WARC BANDS

W1AW is expected to start experimental bulletin transmissions (CW/RTTY) shortly on 18.100 and 10.140 MHz. Stay tuned to W1AW bulletins, QST and The ARRL Letter for the latest available information.

End of INFO-HAMS Digest V89 Issue #820
